

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00363 021509Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ARA-10 /096 W

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R 021317Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5068

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0363

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SREF,SF,AO

SUBJ: VORSTER REJECTS UN VOTE ON ANGOLA:PRAISE

FOR ROLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

1. AT CEREMONIES MARKING OPENING OF RICHARDS BAY IN NATAL
APRIL 1, PRESS ASKED PRIME MINISTER FOR REACTION TO SECURITY
COUNCIL VOTE CONDEMNING SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA
AND DEMANDING PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS. VORSTER REPORTEDLY
SAID HE REJECTS THE DECISION AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT
COMPLY WITH IT. CAPE TOWN ARGUS REPORTED APRIL 2 THAT
MINDEF BOTHA,RESPONDING TO SIMILAR QUESTION, HAD SAID SOUTH
AFRICAN ROLE HAD BEEN PART OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE FREE
WORLD, AND THAT FOR REASONS OF HONOR AND DIPLOMACY,SOUTH
AFRICA COULD NOT GIVE ALL THE REASONS FOR ITS ACTIVITIES.

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00363 021509Z

HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT IF THE REMARKS OF THE US REPRESENTATIVE

HAD BEEN REPORTED CORRECTLY,'ONE WONDERS IF SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD NOT TELL THE WHOLE STORY'.

2. IN SPEECH TO SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONGRESS IN DURBAN EVENING APRIL 1, AIR FORCE CHIEF, LT.GEN.R.H.D.ROGERS, SAID THAT THE MPLA HAD BY FORCE OF ARMS AND WITH COMMUNIST ASSISTANCE PREVENTED THE FORMATION OF A TRULY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND THAT MOST OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAD EITHER ENCOURAGED OR ACQUIESCED IN WHAT WAS DONE, WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS. SOUTH AFRICA HAD CARRIED OUT ITS MILITARY PLAN IN ANGOLA IN A 'BRILLIANT MANNER' ROGERS ADDED. 'MILITARILY OUR BOYS ACQUITTED THEMSELVES OUTSTANDINGLY AND PROVED MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANYONE THEY MET INCLUDING THE CUBANS....UNFORTUNATELY THERE HAD BEEN CASUALTIES, BUT NOTHING LIKE THE NUMBERS QUOTED IN RUMORS THAT WERE ONCE PREVALENT IN THE REPUBLIC. ALL TOLD WE LOST 28 MEN KILLED IN ACTION AND ABOUT 100 WOUNDED'.

3. ROGERS SAID THAT CUBAN TROOPS HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO ANGOLA IN AUGUST. 'LATER THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS APPROACHED BY CERTAIN INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES FOR ASSISTANCE.' ROGERS DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THIS THEME. HE ADDED THAT SAG FORCES HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF OVAMBO AND KAVANGO TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IN THOSE TERRITORIES IN THE FACE OF TERRORIST INCURSIONS, AND THAT SA FORCES WOULD PROVIDE THIS PROTECTION AS LONG AS IT IS REQUIRED.

BOWDLER

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